



Karen Lavery  
Councilmember, Town of Bluffton

Karen Lavery comes to public service after decades of being a leader in community volunteerism.

Elected in 2012, Lavery has devoted her brief retirement from the financial industry to serving the Town of Bluffton as a Councilmember and a civically-active resident.

Lavery spent her 20-plus year career in the finance, banking and insurance industries.

Lavery is also recognized as a leader in the international organization of Rotary. She was recognized as Bluffton's Rotarian of the Year in 2010 for her work in her local club as well as the district organization. Lavery has been a dedicated Rotarian through her positions as its 2005 president, the local Foundation chairman, a host for foreign exchange students, a district secretary and the chairman of the Bluffton Village Festival from 2009 through 2011.

She has obtained one of the highest honors as a Rotarian, being named into the Ten-Star Rotarian Program for her leadership spanning several years in numerous positions.

Lavery has also served on several non-profit boards of directors in Beaufort County such as the Bluffton Historical Preservation Society, Programs for Exceptional People and the Hilton Head Recreation Center.

Additionally, Lavery served as chairman of the Beaufort County School Improvement Council for H.E. McCracken Middle School after it opened in 2000. She is also a 1998 graduate of the Leadership Class, a year-long civic program sponsored by the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce.

Lavery is currently the executive director of the Bluffton-Jasper County Volunteers in Medicine, a free medical clinic for the working poor who are medically uninsured.

A Maine-native, Lavery has lived in Bluffton for more than 20 years. As a self-proclaimed, "Air Force Brat," Lavery never lived in the same location for more than four years during her childhood. Living in Bluffton for more than two decades is a testament to her love of her adopted hometown.